



## News of the Week April 6, 2022

### Prayers of the Week

**Please remember in your prayers this week:**

**From the Montana Synod Prayer Calendar:**

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Missoula  
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Missoula

Florida-Bahamas Synod



### Words from around the Synod: The Office of Faith and Community Based Services

-by Jenny Kunka

Nationally, one in four people will go to their faith leader to seek help before they will go to a professional. This is especially true in rural areas. If twenty five percent of people see their clergy as their first conversation, it's vital that those faith leaders have access to information and resources for those conversations.

The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services has established a new office to connect with both faith and community leaders in an effort to support their work. Tracy Moseman, member of Our Redeemer Lutheran in Helena, is the coordinator of this new office: The Office of Faith and Community Based Services.

Moseman said she wants her position to be a bridge between the DPHHS and local faith and community

organizations. She hopes her office can create a two-way flow of information, resources and programs to serve identified health and wellness needs in each community.

As the Office of Faith and Community Based Services was being established, Moseman traveled across Montana, meeting with pastors and community organizations to learn how the DPHHS could better serve them.

“As I’m listening to faith leaders across the state, I’m hearing a lot of questions about what this office means,” Moseman said. “Are there strings attached if people reach out for resources? Is this office going to require that people use certain programming or a certain theology?”

The answer to those questions is no. Instead, Moseman said her job is to be a connector and a resource. “We don’t have a budget for programs or grants. That is not the intention. The intention is to be a connector. If the Catholic church in Choteau is interesting in doing a summer feeding program in town, they can reach out to me and find how who else in the state has done something similar and I can connect them.”

Moseman said that a faith community might be interested in a specific issue or local need and she can be the person who connects that community to helpful resources and also to others who are doing the same type of work.

The DPHHS works with a wide variety of issues from mental health to foster care to Medicaid to addiction to human trafficking to abuse. They have access to quality trainings, best practice recommendations and a variety of resources. They also can be a place to share what is working well in addressing particular issues.

“We aren’t about asking people to take on more or to do more. This is about us being able to serve the faith communities that are already doing this type of work.”

Moseman has toured the state to make connections because she wants to be the person that faith leaders can contact with requests and questions. She wants to be the person who can bring community requests back to the DPHHS so that department can best serve the people of Montana.

To help in her efforts, the office is hosting regional summits so Moseman can continue introducing herself. The summits will allow her to share tools and resources the DPHHS offers, including upcoming educational opportunities. Additionally, the summits will give Moseman another chance to listen to the needs of Montana communities.

If you can’t attend a summit, sign up for the newsletter and visit the website. Moseman also encourages faith leaders to reach out because they are the eyes and ears and can be a help to the department to better understand needs and issues in the state.

Go to the website at:

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/faithandcommunity/>

Sign up for their monthly newsletter on the right side of the page, in the “*email updates*” box. Below that box, click on the line that says “*trainings and events*” then scroll down to “*May 2022 Faith and Community Based Services Regional Summits*” to find a summit near you.



**There will be no recorded sermon from the Synod staff for this Palm/Passion Sunday**

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## Register for the Chico Hot Springs Pastoral Conference!

[Click here](#) to go to the registration page and to find out speaker and registration info, as well as instructions on how to make sure you have a room at Chico!

[Click here to download the schedule and committee election information for Chico](#)

1. The Tuesday evening Confluence worship team is asking everyone to bring a container of water from their own watershed. We will begin with a collective water ritual.
2. At the Chico conference we will be holding an election for the position of program director. The program director arranges the speakers and worship and serves on the planning team.
3. Chico wants us to communicate to attendees that room check-in starts at **4:00pm** (in the past, it was 3:00, but they're short on staff and can't turn the rooms around that fast)

**You will need to reserve your room at Chico separately from the conference registration!**  
Room reservations can be [made here](#).

**Registration closes today at 6pm!**

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### Montana Synod New Calls

#### **Heidi Hester**

Rev. Heidi Hester has been a life-long Lutheran. Beginning with her baptism on Palm Sunday at St. John Lutheran Church in Helena, Montana, she and her parents have been members of numerous Lutheran congregations throughout Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota and Washington.

Rev. Hester attended Pacific Lutheran University in Washington, receiving her bachelor degree in Communication/Public Relations. After graduation she served for seven years in Washington as Minister of Youth and Family Ministries at Silverdale Lutheran Church and Trinity Lutheran Church. Later, after moving to Southern California she found herself working as an Executive Assistant for an Entertainment attorney at CBS, Inc. in the network's legal department.



In 1999, Heidi followed her vocational call and began attending PLTS in Berkeley. While attending seminary, she did her teaching parish at St. Andrews Lutheran Church in San Mateo and her internship at St. John's Lutheran Church in Kailua, Hawaii. Pastor Heidi was ordained on May 25, 2003 at St. Andrews Lutheran.

Her first call was as pastor of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Whittier for seven years. In 2009, she joined the Office of the Bishop, Pacifica Synod as Assistant to the Bishop where she worked with 120 congregations and ministry sites.

Rev. Hester then accepted a call to serve Trinity Lutheran Church in Pleasanton, California. During this time Rev. Hester served on a numerous synod committees and task forces, as well as served as a member of the Worship Staff for the ELCA's churchwide assemblies. She served Trinity Lutheran and Sonshine preschool for six years.

Now Rev. Hester has come home to Montana, and began serving as the Lead Pastor for Hope Lutheran Church in Bozeman in November 2021.



### **Annela Rova**

Rev. Annela Rova grew up in Arlee, Montana and went to the University of Montana in Missoula. She studied journalism in college, then spent a year in the Young Adults in Global Mission program, serving in Israel/Palestine and teaching English as a second language in a Lutheran school.

After her YAGM year, Annela moved to Minneapolis to live with her paternal grandparents. She lived there for four years, working in communications for two different churches and also working in the organic food co-

op and farming world.

During this time, she met her husband, a St. Paul native. She also started having conversations with Pr. John Lund about vocation. She'd tried journalism and it didn't quite fit. Her conversations with John as well as with her community in Minneapolis led her to apply to seminary.

Pr. Rova entered PLTS in 2017 and got her degree at the end of 2021. She did her internship in Sierra Vista, Arizona serving part time at a Lutheran church and part time at a hospital. She gave birth to a daughter last April during her internship, at the hospital where she was working.

Annela and her family have been in Choteau since August where she has been called to Trinity Lutheran. She was ordained in December.

### **Josh Wyman**

Rev. Josh Wyman grew up in Mahtomedi, a suburb of St. Paul, MN. He began attending church after high school, finding a home at St. Andrew's Lutheran in the Twin Cities, where he was baptized in his early twenties. As he was volunteering at St. Andrews and working with youth, he felt called to continue that work and attended Augsburg College, receiving a degree in religion. After college, Josh did a variety of jobs but kept thinking about his call to ministry and,

in time, he enrolled at Luther Seminary. Throughout these years, St. Andrews played an important part in Josh's life and was where he was confirmed, married and ordained.

Josh and his wife came to the Montana Synod for Josh's internship with Peace Lutheran and St. John's United in Billings. They loved the state and are happy they've been able to stay here.

Josh was called to serve at First American Lutheran in Hardin. Their family welcomed a baby girl born July 16<sup>th</sup> of 2021.



### **Montana Synod: Retirements**

Thank you to these pastors who have retired in the past few months. We are grateful for your ministry and years of service to the Montana Synod:

Pastor Julie Long

Pastor Dan Heskett

Pastor Kris Mitzman

Pastor Christine Holler-Dinsmore

## **The time has come to register for the Montana Synod Assembly!**

**Friday, June 3, 2022 ~ 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, June 4, 2022 ~ 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**Billings Hotel and Convention Center - 1223 Mullaney Lane, Billings, MT - 406-248-7151**

The Montana Synod Assembly theme this year is, "Equipping for the Gospel" and will be held over two days, June 3-4 at the Billing Hotel and Convention Center. Please be aware that all attendees are responsible for their own room reservations. Call the hotel at: 406-248-7151 and reference the Montana Synod Assembly.

### ***Room Block (Expires May 12, 2022)***

We will be having our assembly in person this year! A live stream will be provided but there will be NO online voting. All voting members will need to be present in order to cast their votes.

As per the Assembly Rules:

### **Addendum to the 2022 Assembly Rules**

*All voting members and visitors will be expected to be fully vaccinated (except for medical reasons) as defined by CDC guidelines at the time of the Synod Assembly. Alternatively, a negative test the day before arrival will be acceptable. Monitoring will be done on the honor system, and each attendee will be trusted to make their own decisions in the spirit of Christ's ongoing call to us to love our neighbor and seek their health and well-being.*

*Masks will be optional unless circumstances arise that will again require us to wear masks while gathering. The Yellowstone County Health Department and the CDC guidelines will be consulted for recommendations one week before the date of the assembly and a final determination regarding mask use will be made then.*

*Approved by Synod Council 3/12/2022*

A few things to remember before registering:

- Have all information needed to register beforehand including Name, email, physical address, and any meal requirements for each person registering.
- Carefully read all options available before registering, make sure to select the appropriate option for your registration.
- An individual email is required for each person.
- If prompted for a country code at the address portion of the registration, enter the number 1.
- All payments are online only.
- There will be **NO in person registration** at the assembly. All voting members **Must** be registered before the registration cut off date of May 24th.
- There is **no need** to print the tickets generated by Tithely. You will receive your registration packet in person at the assembly.
- When filling out the address, enter the number 1 in the box labeled "Country Code"
- Any questions should be directed to Colter McCarty: [cmccarty@montanasynod.org](mailto:cmccarty@montanasynod.org)

[Register for the 2022 Montana Synod Assembly Here](#)

[Click here for the list of openings](#) that will be voted on at the assembly as well as the [Nominations Committee members](#).

**[Are you a ministry partner interested in providing a video greeting or hosting a display table at the assembly? Download the application here!](#)**

## **Resolutions and Memorials at the Assembly**

*-From the 2022 Assembly rules approved by the Montana Synod Council*

### **Resolutions and Memorials**

Resolutions submitted by the April 15th deadline will be considered by the Resolutions Committee and presented to the Synod Assembly, if appropriate. Other resolutions will be dealt with as time permits.

*Regarding communication with Churchwide*

The Montana Synod Assembly may only address the ELCA Churchwide Assembly by means of a **memorial**. References: ELCA Constitution 12.11.c and ELCA Bylaw 12.51.21. This bylaw states

that a Memorials Committee shall review memorials from synodical assemblies and make appropriate recommendations for assembly action.

The Montana Synod Council may only address the ELCA Church Council by means of a **resolution**. ELCA Bylaws 14.21.11 and 14 pertain to resolutions sent to the Church Council (which involves a report to the Churchwide Assembly). ELCA Bylaw 14.41.11 pertains to resolutions sent to the Executive Committee of the Church Council with referral to, and additional action to be taken by, the appropriate churchwide unit.

The memorial route is the most direct route to the churchwide assembly, but, at the same time, it is perhaps the least effective route. The churchwide Memorials Committee has to work through hundreds of memorials from synod assemblies. Consequently, most memorials (especially if they are poorly written) wind up with a “do not pass” recommendation. However, reworked resolutions from the ELCA Church Council or a churchwide unit have a tendency to meet with a much more favorable review.

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#### **Synod Staff:**

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